

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 CPR-01 /057 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5473

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 8718

E.O. 11652: XGDS-5B

TAGS: PINR, TU, NO

SUBJECT: NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY

1. ON NOVEMBER 9, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL GAZETTE  
CONFIRMED THE APPOINTMENT OF EIDEM ERNER AS TURKISH  
AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY. ERNER HAS BEEN TURKISH AMBASSADOR  
TO PAKISTAN SINCE 1973.

2. AMBASSADOR ERNER WAS BORN IN ISTANBUL IN 1927. A  
GRADUATE OF THE SAINT JOSEPH LYCEE IN ISTANBUL AND THE  
POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ANKARA, HE  
JOINED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN 1948. HE SUBSEQUENTLY  
SERVED AS VICE CONSUL IN CHICAGO (1951-1955), FIRST  
SECRETARY AND THEN COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN LONDON (1958-1962)  
AND CONSUL GENERAL IN HAMBURG (1964-1969). FROM 1962  
TO 1964 ERNER WAS DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S  
CABINET. IN 1970 HE WAS NAMED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
EASTERN (USSR, EASTERN EUROPE AND FAR EAST) DEPARTMENT OF  
THE MINISTRY. IN LATE 1971 HE WAS NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR  
GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND IN  
MID-1972, HAVING ATTAINED AMBASSADORIAL RANK, WAS DESIGNATED  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE POST HE OCCUPIED UNTIL  
HIS TRANSFER TO ISLAMABAD IN 1973.

3. ERNER IS MARRIED (HIS WIFE'S NAME IS GOKCIN, PRONOUNCED  
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GUK-CHEEN); THE ERNER'S HAVE TWO SONS. ERNER AND HIS  
WIFE, WHO BOTH SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH, WERE DESIGNATED AS

OFFICIAL ESCORTS TO FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. AGNEW DURING THEIR OCTOBER 1971 VISIT TO TURKEY. ERNER ALSO SPEAKS EXCELLENT FRENCH AND SOME GERMAN.

4. AMBASSADOR ERNER IS THE POLISHED SCION OF ONE OF TURKEY'S MOST DISTINGUISHED FAMILIES. HIS INSTINCTS ARE PATRICIAN AND ALTHOUGH HE USUALLY DISPLAYS A FRIENDLY ENGAGING PERSONALITY WITH WESTERNERS, HE CAN BE COLD AND SELF-IMPORTANT WITH TURKISH SUBORDINATES. IN THE PAST, ERNER HAS ACCEPTED THE NATO AND U.S. BILATERAL ALLIANCES AS KEYSTONES OF TURKEY'S FOREIGN POLICY. HOWEVER, HE NEVER HESITATED PRIVATELY TO CRITICIZE U.S. POLICY OR ACTIONS WHICH HE CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE OR INADEQUATE. WE ASSUME THAT THE CURRENT TENSION IN U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS MAY HAVE HAD SOME NEGATIVE AFFECT ON HIS VIEWS.

5. IN APPEARANCE, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT PAUNCHY, ERNER MAKES A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. A RATHER HANDSOME, THOUGH BALDING, SIX FOOTER, HE IS VOLUBLE, EASY OF APPROACH AND PROJECTS THE IMAGE OF AN URBANE WESTERN DIPLOMAT. A NEAR CHAIN SMOKER, HE IS AN AVID BRIDGE PLAYER OF TOURNAMENT CALIBER AND ALSO ENJOYS HIGH-STAKES POKER. MRS. ERNER IS AN ATTRACTIVE, LIVELY BRUNETTE WHOSE FAMILY HAS EXTENSIVE LAND HOLDINGS IN SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY. SHE IS THE SISTER OF THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA, FAIK MELIK.  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** OSLO  
**Type:** TE  
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